

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 SSM-03 ISO-00 PA-01
H-01 SIG-03 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 INRE-00 NSAE-00
PCH-02 /072 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:LHW
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER
H -MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN

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O 220007Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
USCINCEUR
DOD
USICA
NSC
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 21, 1978

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 21. FYI ONLY,
OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER.

(STATEMENT): WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF QUERIES ABOUT OUR
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REACTION TO THE ISRAELI CABINET DECISION OF SUNDAY, WHICH
I NOW WANT TO RESPOND TO.

YOU WILL RECALL THAT WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN WAS HERE
IN EARLY MAY (ACTUAL TIME OF FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S
VISIT WAS LATE APRIL), WE ADDRESSED TWO QUESTIONS TO HIM
IN AN EFFORT TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF THE ISRAELI POSITION
ON THE ISSUE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. THESE QUESTIONS
WERE:

-- COULD ISRAEL SAY THAT AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS THE
QUESTION OF THE FINAL STATUS OF THESE TERRITORIES WOULD BE
RESOLVED?

-- WHAT COULD ISRAEL SAY ABOUT THE MECHANISM BY WHICH THIS
QUESTION COULD BE RESOLVED?

--

WE HAVE NOW HAD TIME TO REFLECT ON THE ISRAELI REPLIES,
AND WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED A FULL EXPLANATION ON THE
CABINET DECISION FROM FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN. WE REGRET
THAT THE ISRAELI REPLIES DID NOT FULLY RESPOND TO OUR

QUESTIONS.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT ITS IDEAS ON WEST BANK AND GAZA ISSUES. IN LIGHT OF ISRAEL'S RESPONSES AND THESE EGYPTIAN VIEWS, WE WILL NOW BE UNDERTAKING ACTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH BOTH THE EGYPTIAN AND THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS AS TO NEXT STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO HELP THE PARTIES RESUME NEGOTIATIONS.

I WILL TAKE QUESTIONS.

Q. THIS MAY BE A POLITE WAY OF SAYING IT, BUT IN FACT THE ISRAELIS DID RESPOND TO THAT FIRST QUESTION BY SAYING THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY WOULD SIMPLY WANT TO POSTPONE ANY DECISION ON IT.

A. I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO A TEXTUAL ANALYSIS, BUT IF YOU POSE THE ANSWER AND THE QUESTION WITH EACH OTHER, THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION, WE FEEL, IS NOT GIVEN--WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE TEXTUAL THING THAT ANY ANSWER CAN BE CONSTRUED AS AN ANSWER.

Q. THE NEXT STEP, IS IT A POSSIBILITY NOW THAT THE UNITED STATES, IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS OF THE ISRAELIS, WILL NOW PUT FORWARD ITS OWN IDEAS?

A. LET ME REALLY STRESS SOMETHING FOR YOU, IF I MAY GUIDE A LITTLE BIT ON THIS FOR THE SAKE OF REALITY.

THE LAST PARAGRAPH, AND PARTICULARLY THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE PARAGRAPH, IS NOT VERBIAGE. IT IS AN ACTIVE FACT. IT IS WHAT IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW AND WILL BE GOING ON.

Q. THROUGH EMBASSIES AT THE MOMENT?

A. THROUGH EMBASSIES AT THE MOMENT.

Q. LEADING WHERE?

A. FRANKLY, AS TO WHERE, IT DEPENDS ON WHAT WE GET OUT OF IT. BUT I WOULD WANT TO REPEAT SOMETHING I SAID BEFORE, WITHOUT GIVING INORDINATE EMPHASIS TO IT, AND THAT IS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER DIRECT MISSIONS FROM HERE TO

THE MIDDLE EAST ARE OBVIOUSLY A POSSIBILITY.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO LEAD YOU IN THE DIRECTION THAT SUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRIPS HAD BEEN ARRANGED, BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT; OR THAT THERE IS A GRAND DESIGN IN PLACE FOR THEM, BECAUSE THERE IS NOT. THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT HERE IS THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY, AND WILL BE ACTIVELY, CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS. THE PURPOSE OF WHAT WE WANT IS NOT NEW, BUT NEEDS TO BE RESTATED--AND THAT IS TO GET THE PARTIES BACK TOGETHER AGAIN, TALKING TO EACH OTHER.

Q. IN THAT CONNECTION, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING OFFICIAL YET FROM THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE ISRAELI REPLIES WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO GET THE PARTIES BACK TALKING DIRECTLY TO ONE ANOTHER?

A. I AM GOING TO HAVE TO LEAVE THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO CHARACTERIZE ITS OWN RESPONSE.

Q. AFTER HAVING HEARD FROM BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT, YOU IN YOUR ROLE AS MIDDLE MAN, DO YOU FORESEE THE LIKELIHOOD OR THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMMINENT RESUMPTION OF TALKS BETWEEN THE PARTIES?

A. THAT IS AMONG THE REASONS WHY WE ARE PRESSING OUR DISCUSSIONS RIGHT NOW.

Q. IS THERE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT, WOULD YOU SAY AT THIS JUNCTURE, THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TRY TO RESOLVE THE OBVIOUS IMPASSE IN AN EFFORT TO GET THESE TALKS GOING?

IN OTHER WORDS, HAVE BOTH SIDES SAID TO US AT THIS POINT, GO AHEAD AND TRY TO COME UP WITH A FORMULA THAT WILL GET US BOTH BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE?

(BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

A. I WOULD SAY ON BACKGROUND THAT I WOULD STEER YOU CARE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FULLY AWAY FROM THE NOTION THAT WHAT YOU HAVE NOT IS A PENDING AMERICAN PLAN READY TO BE PROPOSED. IN THE LARGER SENSE, BOTH SIDES HAVE ENCOURAGED US TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS IN THE OVERALL PEACE-MAKING PROCESS ALL ALONG, AND CONTINUE TO DO SO. I JUST WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE THE IDEA THAT THE NEXT STEP IS FOR US TO PRESENT OUR SET OF IDEAS.

(END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Q. THAT IS NOT WHAT I AM ASKING. WHAT I AM ASKING IS, IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS, SINCE THEY HAVE RESPONDED, IS IT CLEAR TO YOU THAT THERE IS A ROLE NOW FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PLAY IN TRYING TO RESOLVE WHAT OBVIOUSLY ARE INADEQUATE RESPONSES AS FAR AS THE EGYPTIANS ARE CONCERNED.

IN OTHER WORDS, HAVE THE ISRAELIS OKAYED EITHER THE IDEA OF THE DIRECT MISSION TO THE AREA IN PRINCIPLE? YOU USE THIS "ACTIVE CONSULTATIONS." ARE THE ISRAELIS PREPARED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT FURTHER RAMIFICATIONS, CLARIFICATIONS, WHAT HAVE YOU, THAT MIGHT MAKE A BREAKTHROUGH POSSIBLE?

A. CERTAINLY THEY ARE PREPARED AND HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO TALK TO US REGULARLY. THEY HAVE DONE SO. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE DOING SO.

I DON'T KNOW THE THRUST OF THE QUESTION BEYOND THAT. I AM SAYING TO YOU RIGHT NOW THAT THERE IS NO PROGRAM IN PLACE FOR A MISSION. THERE ARE IDEAS AND POSSIBILITIES ON WHICH, IN THE COURSE OF ACTIVE NEGOTIATION AND CONSULTATION WITH THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS, WE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND SOME COMMON GROUND.

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Q. WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT KNOW?

A. I THINK THE GENERAL THESIS IS THAT WE OUGHT TO HAVE SOMETHING ON THE OUTCOME OF THESE TALKS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

WE HAVE HOPED THAT WITHIN--I HATE TO DO THIS--SEVERAL DAYS, OR AT ANY RATE IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN THAT SENSE RATHER THAN HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU IN A MONTH.

Q. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT A TRIP, NOW?

A. I AM TALKING ABOUT AN ANSWER TO OUR CONSULTATIONS AS TO WHAT THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE FOLLOWING THESE CONSULTATIONS.

Q. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT A MISSION, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ROY ATHERTON?

A. I WANT TO GO BACK TO WHAT I SAID BEFORE ON ROY ATHERTON AND THE SECRETARY. OBVIOUSLY EITHER ONE OF THEM SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT AS A POSSIBILITY. BUT AT THIS POINT, I AM SIMPLY NOT TRYING TO LEAD YOU TOWARD THE

NOTION OF ROY ATHERTON, SECRETARY VANCE OR ANYBODY ELSE.

Q. ARE THEY POSSIBILITIES BEFORE MONDALE GOES WITH HIS
ENTOURAGE?

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A. I WOULD SAY AGAIN, ON BACKGROUND, THAT I WOULD NOT
THINK ABOUT ANY OF YOU PACKING BAGS BEFORE THE MONDALE
TRIP IS COMPLETED. END BACKGROUND

(END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Q. SO MONDALE IS THE FIRST OCCASION ON WHICH A SENIOR
OFFICIAL WHO KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT MIDDLE EAST POLICY IS
LIKELY TO HIT THE AREA?
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A. CLEARLY THE VICE PRESIDENT, WHO TAKES A KEEN INTEREST
IN FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS, WILL BE THERE. I HAVE ALREADY
SUGGESTED AN ANSWER ON BACKGROUND AS TO WHETHER SOMEBODY
IS GOING TO PRECEDE HIM. IT IS ALSO CLEAR HE WILL BE
ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIALS FROM THIS BUILDING WHO HAVE BEEN
ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MIDDLE EASTERN TALKS.

Q. WILL SAUNDERS BE ONE OF THOSE?

A. THE ANSWER IS POSTED. I DO NOT FEEL IT IS UP TO US
TO SAY WHO IS GOING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT. I REFER YOU
BACK TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

Q. ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED BY THE ISRAELI POSITION?

A. I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU WE REGRET IT, AND I DON'T NEED
TO CHARACTERIZE IT BEYOND THAT.

Q. ISN'T THERE A MORE DIPLOMATIC WAY THAN SAYING DISAP-
POINTMENT?

A. WHAT I HAVE HERE IS A STATEMENT OF OUR REGRET THAT THE
REPLIES WERE NOT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE PARTICULAR QUES-
TIONS. THAT IS A CHARACTERIZATION.

Q. AFTER RECEIVING THEIR DECISION ON THOSE TWO QUESTIONS,
DO YOU STILL HAVE ANY BELIEF THAT YOU COULD REALLY PER-
SUADE THEM TO GET THEM TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, AFTER

YOU HAVE KNOWN IT, AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS, AND NEGOTIA-
TIONS BETWEEN YOU AND THEM AND THE EGYPTIANS, THAT YOU
COULD GET THEM BACK AGAIN TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION AGAIN?
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A. WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT, IS COMMITTED TO FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE ARE PROCEEDING ON THAT ASSUMPTION, AND WE ARE CONTINUING OUR CONSULTATIONS ON THAT ASSUMPTION.

Q. TWO QUESTIONS. YOU HAVE EXPRESSED REGRET AT THE ISRAELI RESPONSE. YOU HAVE TALKED ABOUT EGYPTIAN VIEWS. DO YOU REGRET THOSE VIEWS, APPLAUD THOSE VIEWS? HOW DO YOU CATEGORIZE THOSE?

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO CHARACTERIZE THE IDEAS THAT WE HAVE BEEN EXCHANGING WITH THE EGYPTIANS. WE ARE CONTINUING THOSE DISCUSSIONS. ON SUNDAY IT WAS SAID ON BEHALF OF THIS DEPARTMENT THAT WE HAVE BEEN HAVING USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

BUT, AS I TRIED TO POINT OUT YESTERDAY, IT IS A DIFFERENT SITUATION. THE QUESTIONS WE POSED WERE IN RESPONSE TO SOMETHING PUT FORWARD BY THE ISRAELI SIDE. THEY WERE QUESTIONS WHICH, IN THIS INSTANCE, WERE UNIQUELY FOR ISRAEL TO ANSWER.

THEREFORE, WE HAVE SOME CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ANSWERS ASKED FOR TO GIVE YOU. BUT AT THIS POINT, I DON'T HAVE A CHARACTERIZATION ON THE EGYPTIAN DISCUSSION.

Q. THE SECOND QUESTION IS THAT PRESIDENT SADAT SAID AGAIN LAST NIGHT THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE UNITED STATES PLAY THE ROLE OF A FULL PARTNER IN THE NEGOTIATION. DO YOU SEE THE AMERICAN ROLE AS THAT OF A FULL PARTNER, OR STILL THAT OF AN INTERMEDIARY? AND WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT MEAN IN YOUR VIEW OF THE U.S. PLAYING THE ROLE OF A FULL PARTNER?

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A. I DON'T THINK THAT I AM PREPARED TO INTERPRET WHAT

PRESIDENT SADAT MEANT BY THAT. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT OUR ROLE--OUR PROPER ROLE, OUR USEFUL ROLE, THE ROLE THAT BOTH PARTIES HAVE AGREED THEY WANT US TO PLAY--IS THAT OF THE INTERMEDIARY, THE FACILITATOR, THE PROVIDER OF GOOD OFFICES.

WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE FULL PARTIES ARE THOSE WHO ARE IN THE REGION AND WHO MUST IN FACT AGREE UPON ANY FINAL PEACE SOLUTION.

Q. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDER THE ISRAELI RESPONSE A SETBACK TO PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I WOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE IT ANY FURTHER THAN WHAT I HAVE SAID.

Q. AND THE EGYPTIANS HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE ISRAELI RESPONSE AS BEING ONE OF INTRANSIGENCE. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT DESCRIPTION?

A. I WOULD NOT GO BEYOND THE CHARACTERIZATION THAT I HAVE USED. I AM NOT DEALING WITH ANY OTHER RESPONSE OR CHARACTERIZATION. WE HAVE PRETTY WELL SUMMED UP OUR FEELINGS ON THAT.

Q. IS IT THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW THAT IN ORDER TO GET DIRECT TALKS GOING AGAIN, THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION HAS TO BE YES?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO NOW GO INTO WHAT OUR VIEW IS. THE POINT OF OUR VERY SUBSTANTIAL CONSULTATIONS IS TO FIND OUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME MORE ANSWERS AND TO EXPLORE SOME POSSIBILITIES.

INSOFAR AS THE AMERICAN GENERAL POSITION IN THIS FIELD IS CONCERNED, I WOULD REFER YOU TO AMBASSADOR AT LARGE ATHERTON'S SPEECH IN LOS ANGELES OF LAST THURSDAY.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT EGYPT MIGHT COME WITH HER OWN IDEAS?

A. THE OBVIOUS ANSWER IS THAT THAT IS FOR THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO HAVE TO ANSWER. I AM SAYING THAT WE ARE CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT ITS IDEAS THAT IT MIGHT HAVE FOR HOW TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES, SPECIFICALLY THE WEST BANK-GAZA ONES. BUT I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. IS THERE ANY IDEA OF DEALING WITH THE SECURITY OF JUDEA, SAMARIA AND THE GAZA STRIP? IS THAT THE IDEA THAT YOU ARE CHECKING NOW WITH THE EGYPTIANS?

A. AGAIN, I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO THE VARIOUS

ASPECTS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ANY OF THE PARTIES, EXCEPT TO TRY TO STRESS THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING CONSULTATIONS WITH THEM.

Q. I AM JUST CHECKING MY NOTES FROM MONDAY. ON MONDAY,

YOU SAID, I THINK THE RESPONSE, THE ISRAELI RESPONSE DID SPEAK TO THE AMERICAN QUESTIONS.

TODAY YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE RESPONSE DID NOT SPEAK FULLY TO THE QUESTIONS.

A. THE EXACT STATEMENT IS THAT WE REGRET THAT THE ISRAELI REPLIES DID NOT FULLY RESPOND TO OUR QUESTIONS. I JUST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOT THROUGH SAYING THAT CLEARLY IN ANSWER TO A QUESTIONS IS AN ANSWER, IN THE LOOSEST INTERPRETATION OF AN ANSWER.

OUR ONLY FEELING IS THAT, PARTICULARLY ON QUESTION ONE, IT WAS NOT A FULL RESPONSE.

Q. CAN YOU ELABORATE?

A. NO. I THINK THAT IF YOU EXAMINE THE QUESTION AND

EXAMINE THE ANSWER, THAT YOU CAN DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSION AS TO WHY WE FEEL THAT.

Q. YOU SAID YOU WERE HOLDING CONSULTATIONS. WILL YOU BE ABLE TO TELL US WHO ARE THE PARTIES YOU ARE HOLDING CONSULTATIONS WITH?

A. LET ME SAY IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IN ANY CASE THE CONSULTATIONS ON THESE QUESTIONS ARE BASICALLY WITH EGYPT AND ISRAEL. I WANT TO STRESS THAT THAT IS THE PRIMARY AREA OF OUR CONSULTATIONS RIGHT NOW, SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN THE PARTIES TO THE TALKS.

Q. NUMBER ONE, IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR CONSULTATION WITH THE ISRAELIS TO TRY TO PERSUADE THEM TO RESPOND MORE FULLY; AND, NUMBER TWO, IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION WITH THE EGYPTIANS TO TRY TO PERSUADE THEM TO ACCEPT THE ISRAELI RESPONSE AS IS, OR UNCHANGED?

A. I WOULD LOVE TO ENGAGE THAT, BUT TO DO SO WOULD MEAN I START TALKING ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE CONSULTATIONS AND I CAN'T.

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WE ARE PURSUING THESE CONVERSATIONS WITH A VIEW TOWARD OUR ALWAYS OBJECTIVE, OUR PERMANENT OBJECTIVE, WHICH IS TO RENEW DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND MOVE THE PROCESS ALONG.

Q. HAVE YOU SUBMITTED ANY OTHER QUESTIONS TO ISRAEL IN THE WAKE OF THIS ANSWER, OR REFINED THESE TO SEEK MORE OF

A RESPONSE?

A. I DON'T WANT TO GIVE A FLAT ANSWER, BUT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE ANSWER IS WE HAVE NOT GONE BACK WITH THAT KIND OF PRECISE QUESTION. IF I HAVE TO CHANGE THAT, I WILL, BUT THAT IS MY IMPRESSION.

Q. DID YOU OFFICIALLY CONVEY REGRET TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS?

A. I THINK THEY ARE VERY AWARE OF OUR POSITION.

Q. WHEN DID THE OFFICIALS RECEIVE THEIR RESPONSE FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ON THAT, IS MY FIRST QUESTION.

A. THEY RESPONDED AT THE CABINET MEETING. THEN THERE WAS A FULL PARLIAMENTARY, KNESSET DEBATE MONDAY. WE KNEW WHAT THE CABINET RESPONSE WAS SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

OUR AMBASSADOR GOT A FULL RESPONSL THEN. AMBASSADOR DINITZ CAME IN AND MORE FULLY AMPLIFIED IT.

Q. HAS IT OR HAS IT NOT BEEN KNOWN TO YOU WHAT ARE THE EGYPTIAN VIEWS AND IDEAS OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA YET?

A. WE HAVE HAD AN EXCHANGE WITH THE EGYPTIANS ON THAT SUBJECT.

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Q. WHAT WOULD YOU BE DESCRIBING THEN, THE ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AND A DISCUSSION WITH THE EGYPTIANS TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION, OR WHAT?

A. AGAIN, I AM SIMPLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO THE QUESTION. I AM SIMPLY SAYING WE ARE HAVING ACTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THEM AS TO WHAT NEXT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN TO

HELP THE PARTIES RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. I REALLY HAVE TRIED TO STRESS THAT REPEATEDLY.

Q. ON THE BASIS OF AN AMERICAN PLAN OR IDEAS?

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A. AS I HAVE SAID, ON BACKGROUND,--TO REPEAT, ON BACKGROUND--I DO NOT LOOK FOR THAT TO BE THE NEXT STEP, AMERICA PRESENTING A PLAN, OR SOME OVERALL DESIGN OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT. END BACKGROUND.

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Q. I JUST WANT TO ASK ONE QUESTION WHICH REFERS TO THE REPORTS THAT ARE IN THE PRESS TODAY WHICH, FOR INSTANCE, IN THE TIMES, THE LEAD STORY SAID THE U.S. CRITICIZES ISRAEL. SHE HAS REBUFFED THE PEACE EFFORT. THERE IS TALK IN SOME OTHER PAPERS ABOUT WHAT U.S. OFFICIALS ARE SAYING PRIVATELY. IT IS CRITICAL OF ISRAEL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HEAR FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THE TOP OFFICIALS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE TOLD WESTERN DIPLOMATS, SHALL WE SAY, THAT THE ISRAELI CLARIFICATIONS OF THEIR STATEMENT ARE--QUOTE--HELPFUL AND USEFUL--UNQUOTE.

THAT SEEMS TO BE A CONTRADICTION IN THE REPORTS IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN PRESS, OR IMPORTANT SECTIONS OF THE AMERICAN PRESS, AND WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING. WHERE IS THE TRUTH?

A. I AM GIVING YOU THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE.

I DON'T KNOW THE SOURCE OF THE COMMENTS YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. THAT HAPPENS TO BE A LITERAL TRUTH. I SIMPLY HAVE NO COMMENT ON ANONYMOUS QUOTES. I AM NOT ABLE TO DEAL WITH THEM.

Q. IT SEEMS LIKE THE QUESTION OF THE SINAI HAS BEEN OMITTED OUT OF IT. HAS THERE BEEN ANY AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN YOU, THE ISRAELIS AND THE EGYPTIANS ON THAT QUESTION?

A. NO.
VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ALGIERS.

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